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THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.

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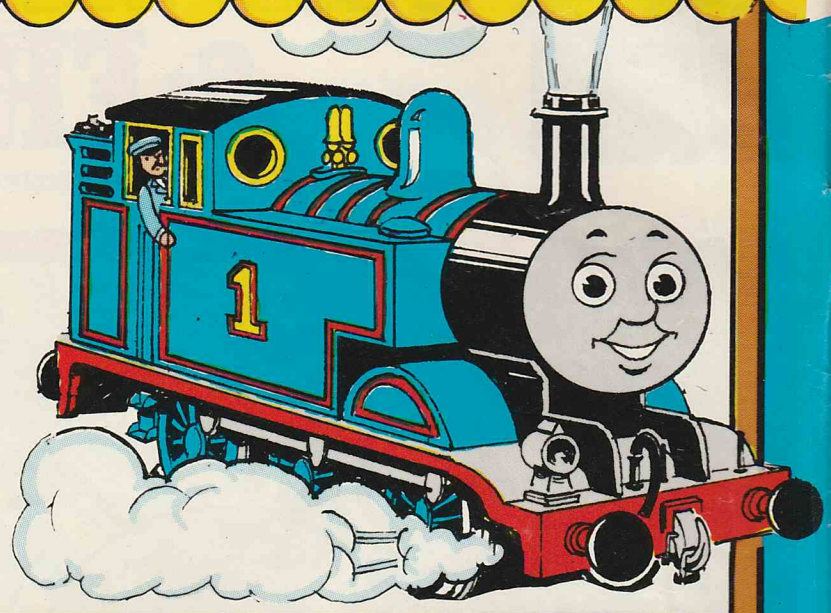
THE THOMAS CLUB PAGE

Peep! Peep! Welcome to our splendid Christmas issue! The Fat Controller is going to hold a special Christmas party for everyone who works on his railway – including his engines! But Diesel has been very silly and has been left out in the snow on Christmas Eve! Peep! Peep!



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By taking out a subscription to **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends,** every issue will be sent straight to your home for a year! You will also receive a splendid **Thomas Pack** and become an automatic member of the **Thomas Club** too! Details are on **page 7!**

ANOTHER WAY!

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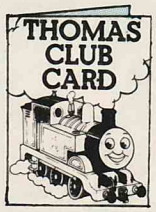
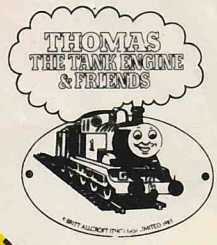


WELCOME!

The Fat Controller would like to say a special hello to the following readers:

Matthew Wells, aged 6, **Ahsley Adams,** aged 2, **Victoria Mave,** aged 3, **Richard Milham** (16071), **Stuart Tinker,** aged 2 and **Robert Brown** (22097), aged 4.

If you'd like a special hello from the Fat Controller send him your name at the address on the letters page.



In our next issue: Percy has a shock when he meets a dragon!

THOMAS TOKEN

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ABC

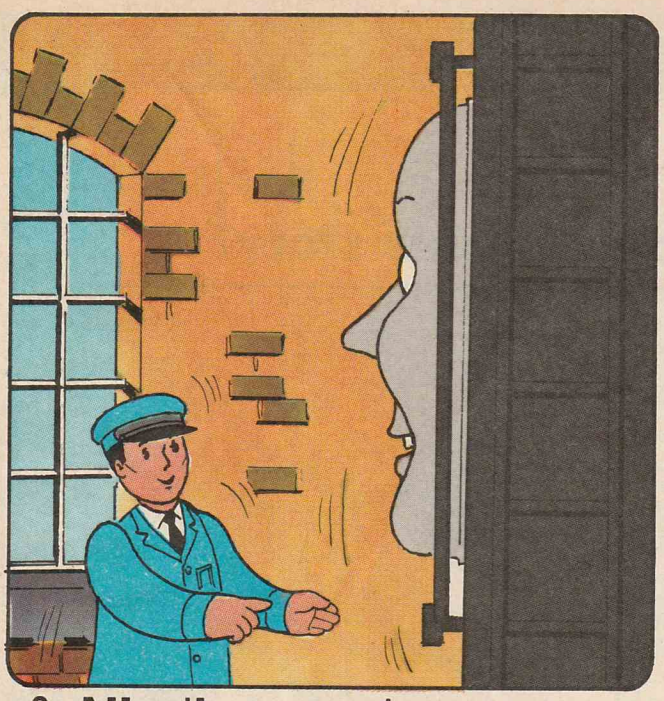
A listen and look story!

DIESEL'S CHRISTMAS

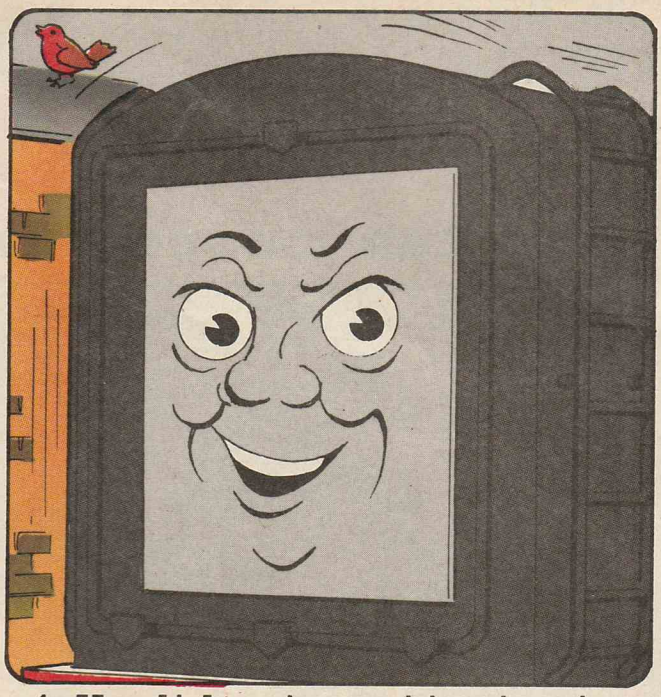
Can you spot 6 robins in this story?

1. It was Christmas Eve on the Island of Sodor and all the engines were busy. There were many extra passenger trains and more goods trains than usual.

2. Bill and Ben helped clear snow from the lines. Bertie drove very carefully on the icy roads and Harold visited people who were cut off by the snow.

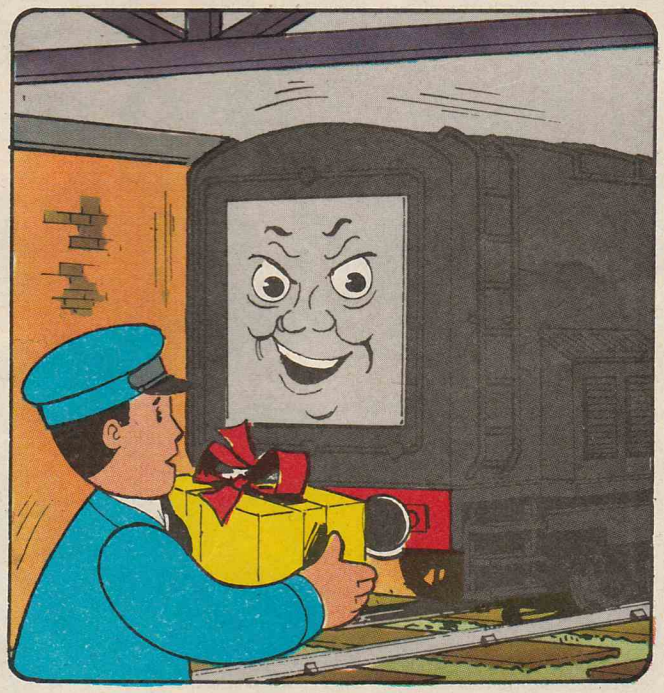


3. All the engines were busy except one. "We are not needed," Diesel's driver told him. "We can have a day off – isn't that nice?" Diesel did not think so.

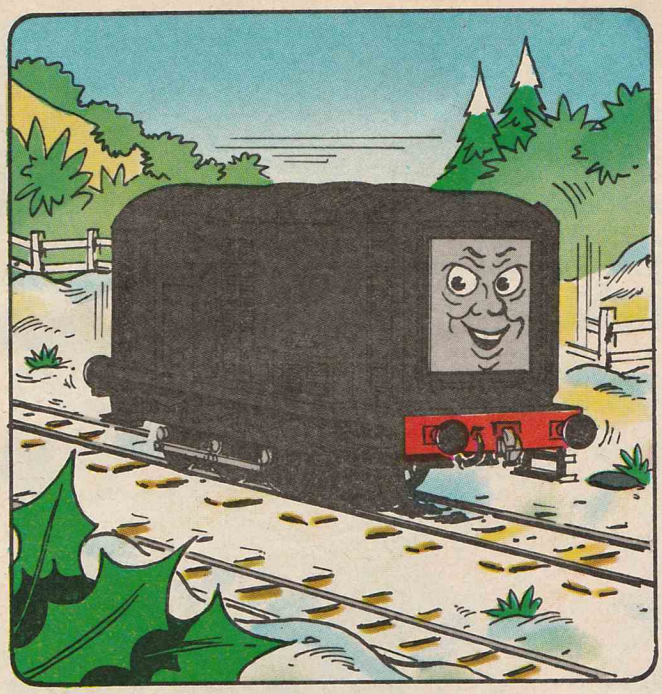


4. He did not want to stay in all day. "One of those old steam engines is sure to break down," he said to his driver. "We shall be needed then!"

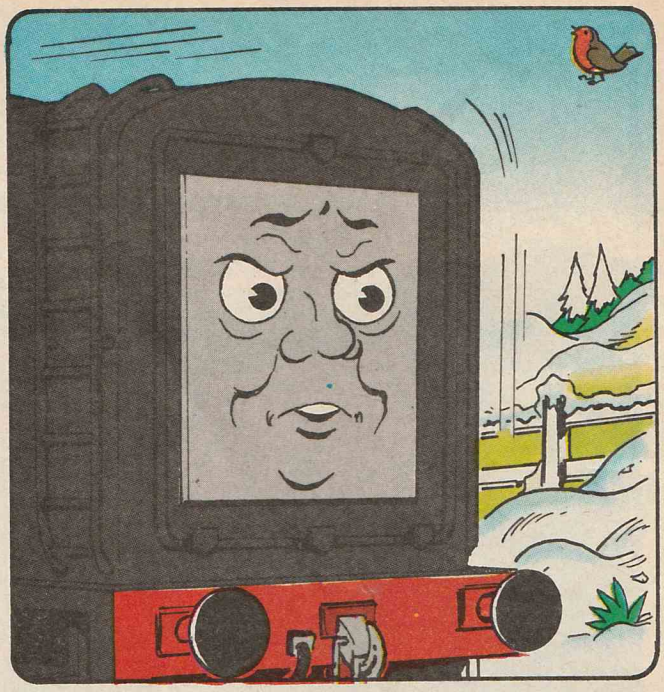
5. "But I want to finish my Christmas shopping!" said the driver. "Go and finish it then," said Diesel crossly. "But come back afterwards as I shall be needed."



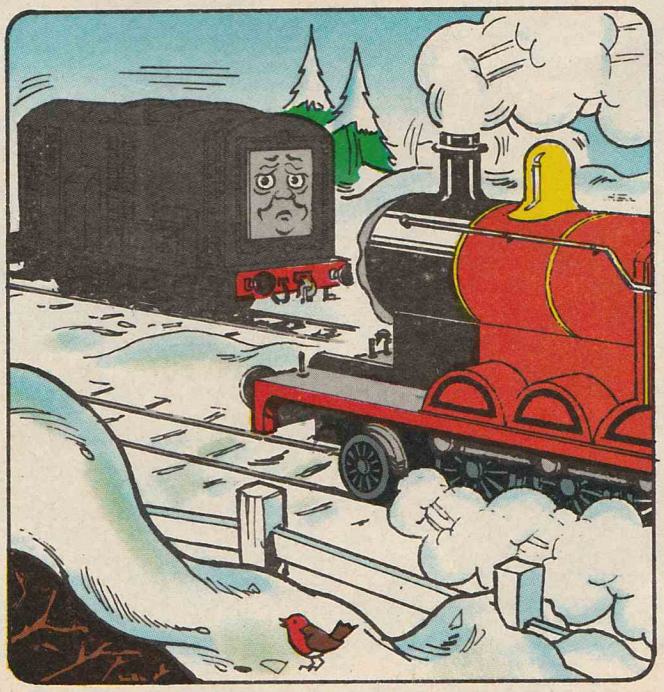
6. A couple of hours later Diesel's driver came back. Diesel said, "That heap of scrap iron James has broken down. I have been told we must rescue him."



7. But Diesel had not been told any such thing. He had made the story up because he did not want to stay in his shed. Diesel set off but quickly got cold.



8. Steam engines do not mind the cold as they have a fire inside them, but diesel engines do not like it. Sometimes they break down if they get too cold.



9. Diesel said, "Oh dear, oh dear! I feel very ill!" and he came to a halt. "Now **we** have broken down!" said his driver. Just then James appeared, pulling trucks.

10. James stopped to see what was the matter and Diesel's driver said to him, "I am glad to see that you have been fixed. What was wrong with you?"

11. The whole story was explained. James was very cross when he found out Diesel had been telling stories about him, but he roared with laughter when he was told that Diesel had broken down! "I cannot take you all the way back to the main station, Diesel, as I already have lots of trucks to pull."

12. "But I had better push you off the main line and out of the way into a siding," said James. "I can also take your driver back, there is no need for him to wait here." So Diesel was shunted into a siding and left there, cold and all alone. He wished he was back in his nice warm shed!

The story continues on page 13!

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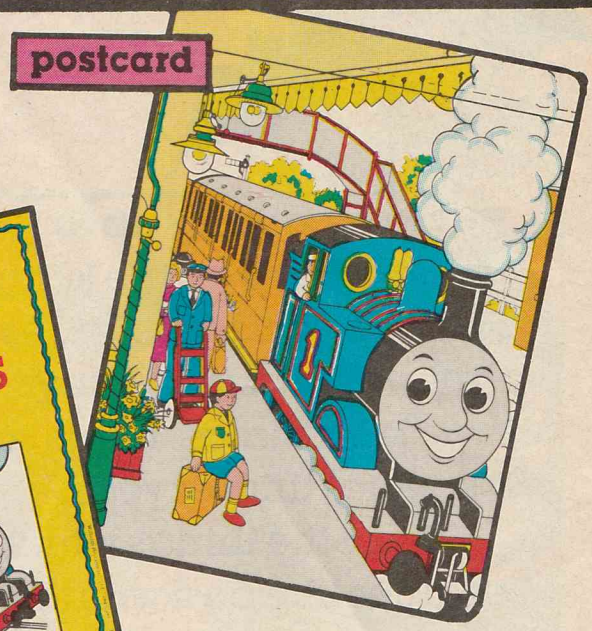

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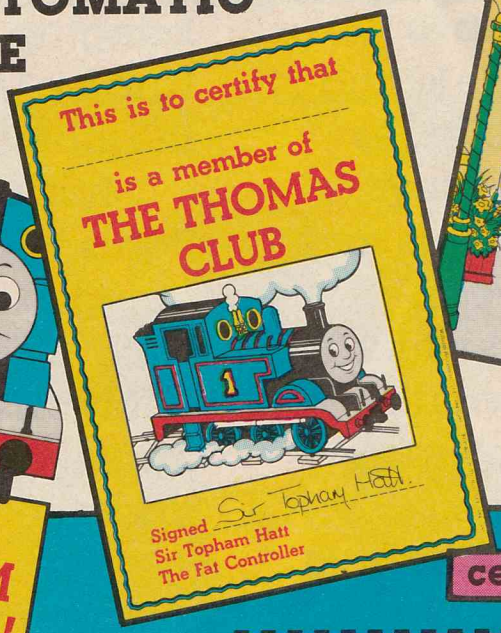

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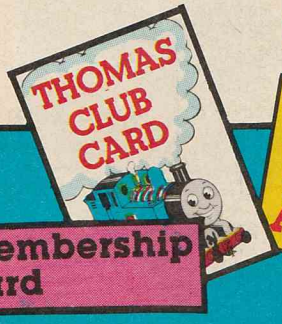

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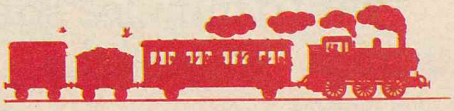

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See Thomas, Percy and James's GERBER FRUIT DRINK PACKS for details of a **£1 DISCOUNT OFFER!** In the shops now!

A read-aloud story!

The Missing Holly!

It was coming up to Christmas on the Island of Sodor. All the engines were very excited. They loved Christmas. It was such a special time of year.

One of the things which the engines like best was the decoration of the shed. All the drivers would get together and each bring something to make the shed look festive.

"When are we decorating the shed?" asked James. "I see the station decorations are already up."

"Oh yes," agreed Henry. "And they are lovely this year!"

"I think we shall be decorating tomorrow," said Thomas. "My driver's bringing the tree, and he said we would collect it in the morning!"

"My driver's bringing the lights," said Gordon. "He was going to check that they were all working tonight."

"My driver's bringing the mistletoe," said James. "What about your driver, Henry?"

"He's bringing the holly," said Henry. "He's already collected a big sackful!"

holly

Sure enough the next day the drivers began to decorate the shed.

Thomas's driver brought a lovely tree and Gordon's driver strung the lights round it. Percy's driver brought a lovely angel for the top of the tree and James's driver brought the mistletoe.

"It's looking lovely," said Thomas.

"Wait a minute!" said James. "Where's the holly, Henry?"

"Um . . . er . . ." muttered Henry. "It should be here soon."

"I thought you said your driver had already collected a big sackful!" said Gordon.

"He has!" insisted Henry. "I saw him cut the holly myself! It's just that, well . . . er . . . he seems to have mislaid it."

"Pah!" said James. "I don't think he's brought any holly at all!"

Henry felt embarrassed. He knew his driver **was** looking for the holly Henry only hoped it would turn up quickly.

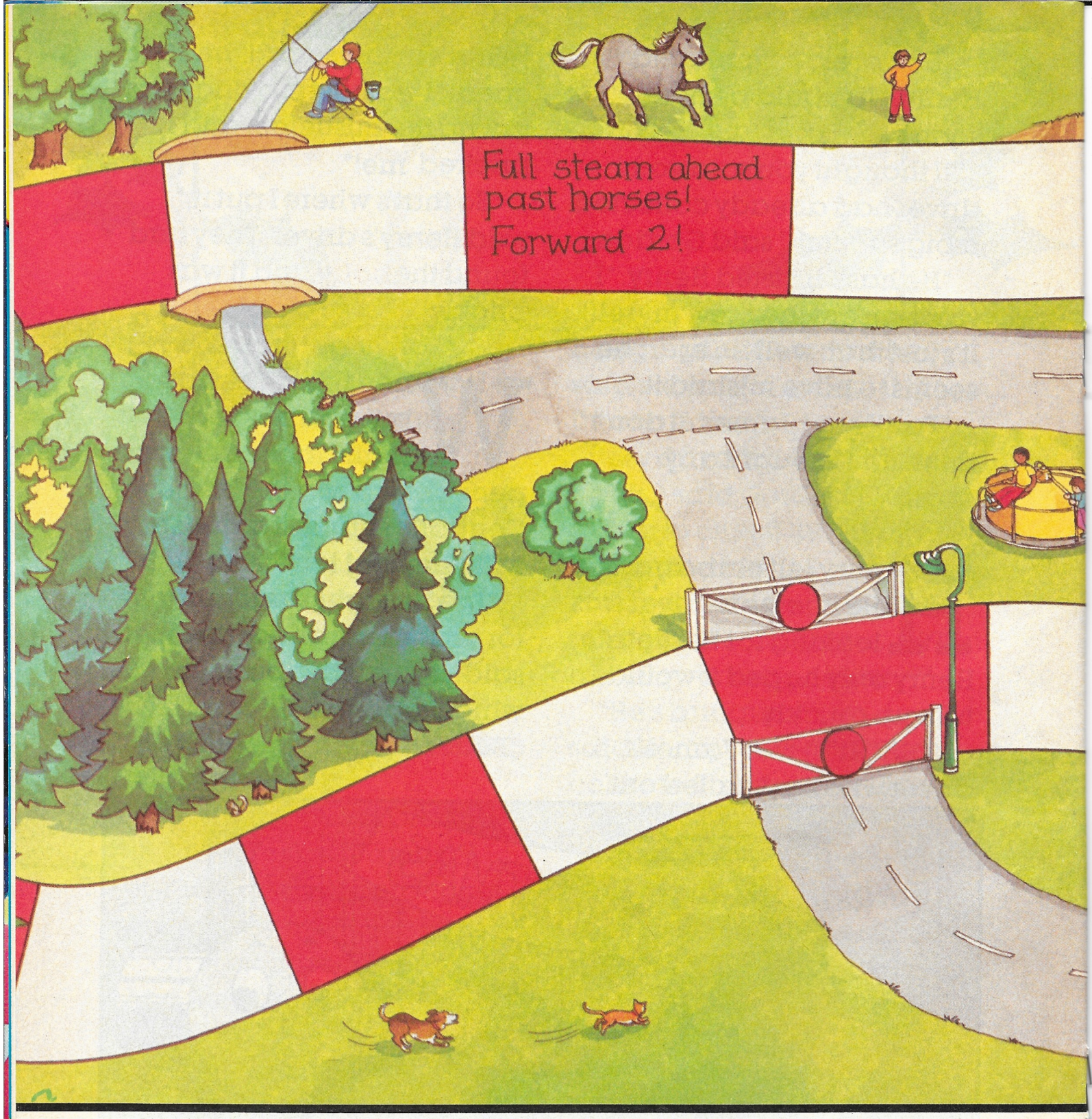
"OUCH!" It was James's driver who had called out. "What's in this sack?!" he cried. "I was just moving it to put up the mistletoe, and it pricked me!"

"So that's where I put it," said Henry's driver. They had found the holly and it was prickly!

When the holly was put up, the shed really looked perfect, but then the Fat Controller himself came in with the final touch.

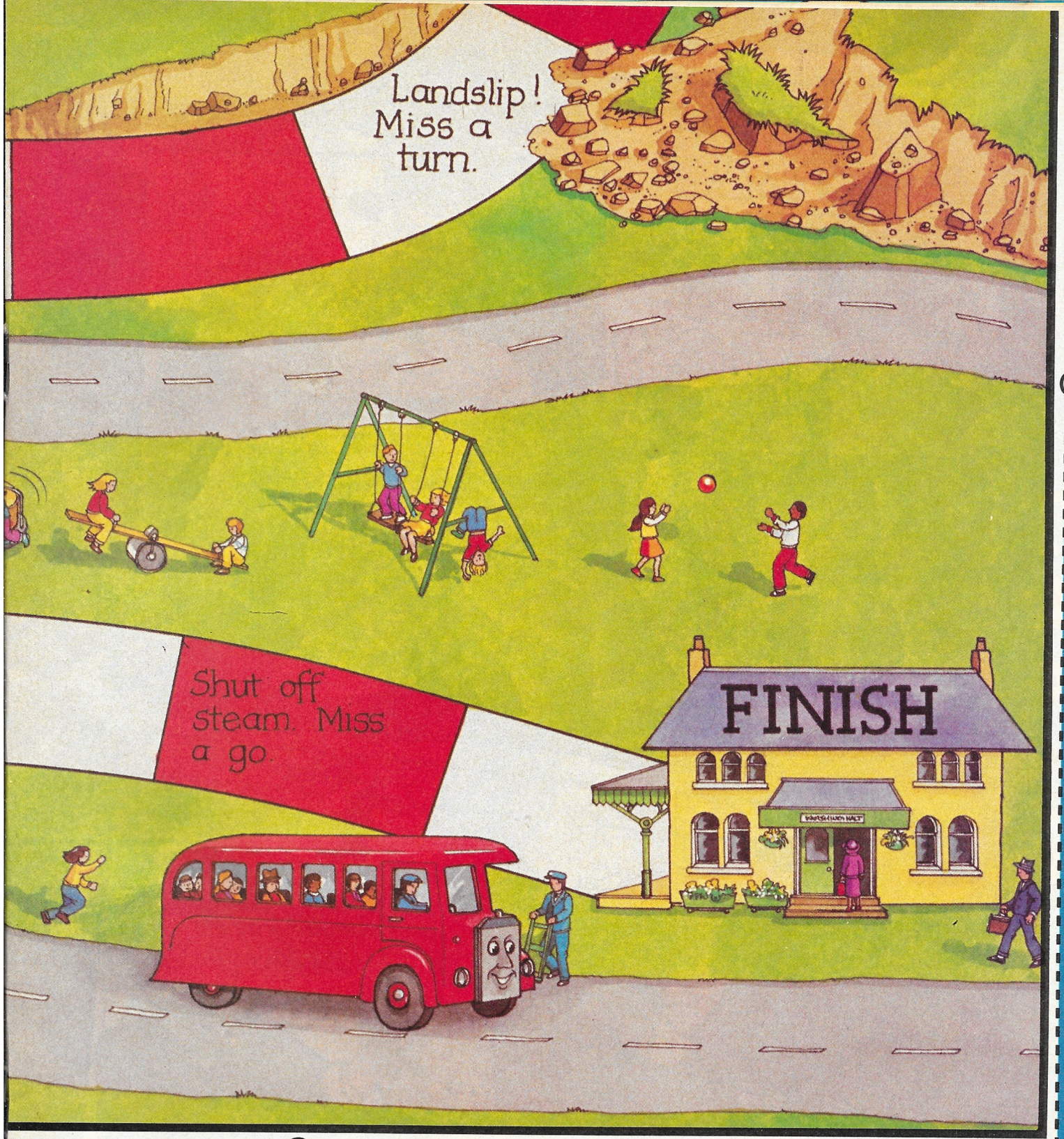
"I've brought something for your decorations," he said. It was a big banner which read **"HAPPY CHRISTMAS"**.

THE END



THOMAS'S Game Part 4

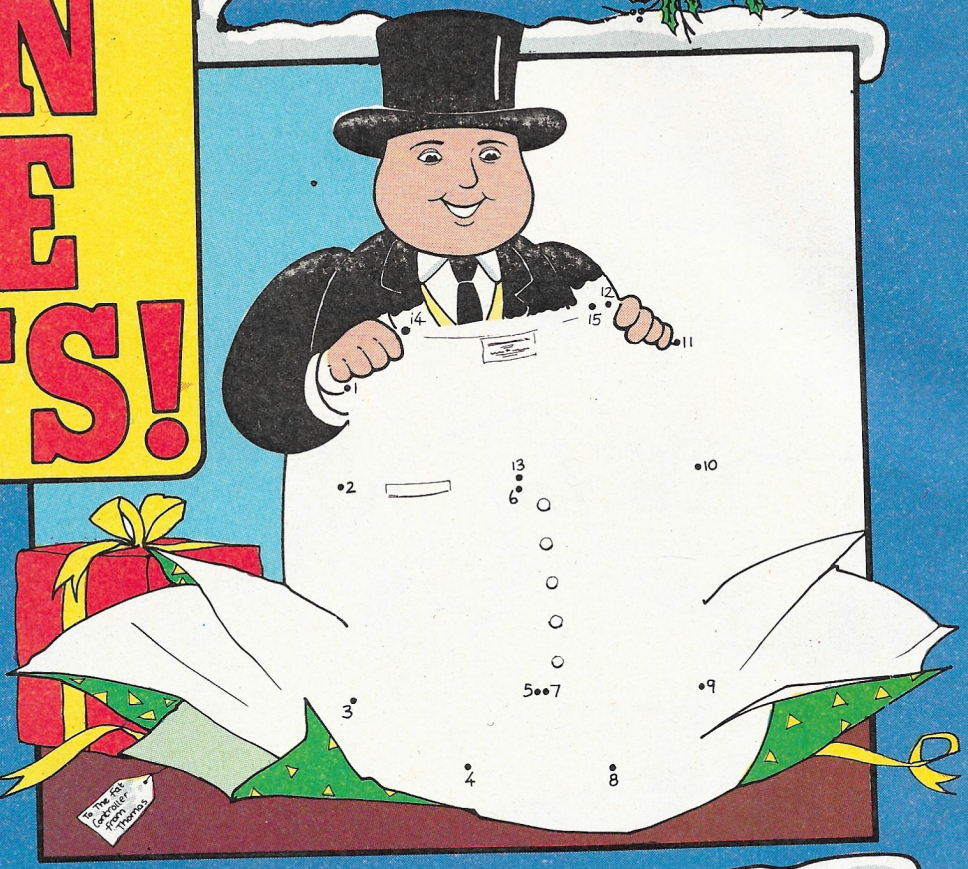
This is the final part of Thomas's very own dice game. Have you collected all four parts? Stick this last double page onto thin card, cut the blue border off along the dotted line and cut out your last counter. Now match all 4 parts of the game together – the edges will overlap a little and you can trim them to fit, before sticking them down. All you need now is a dice! There can be up to 4 players and the first to throw a six starts. Now off you go! Peep! Peep!



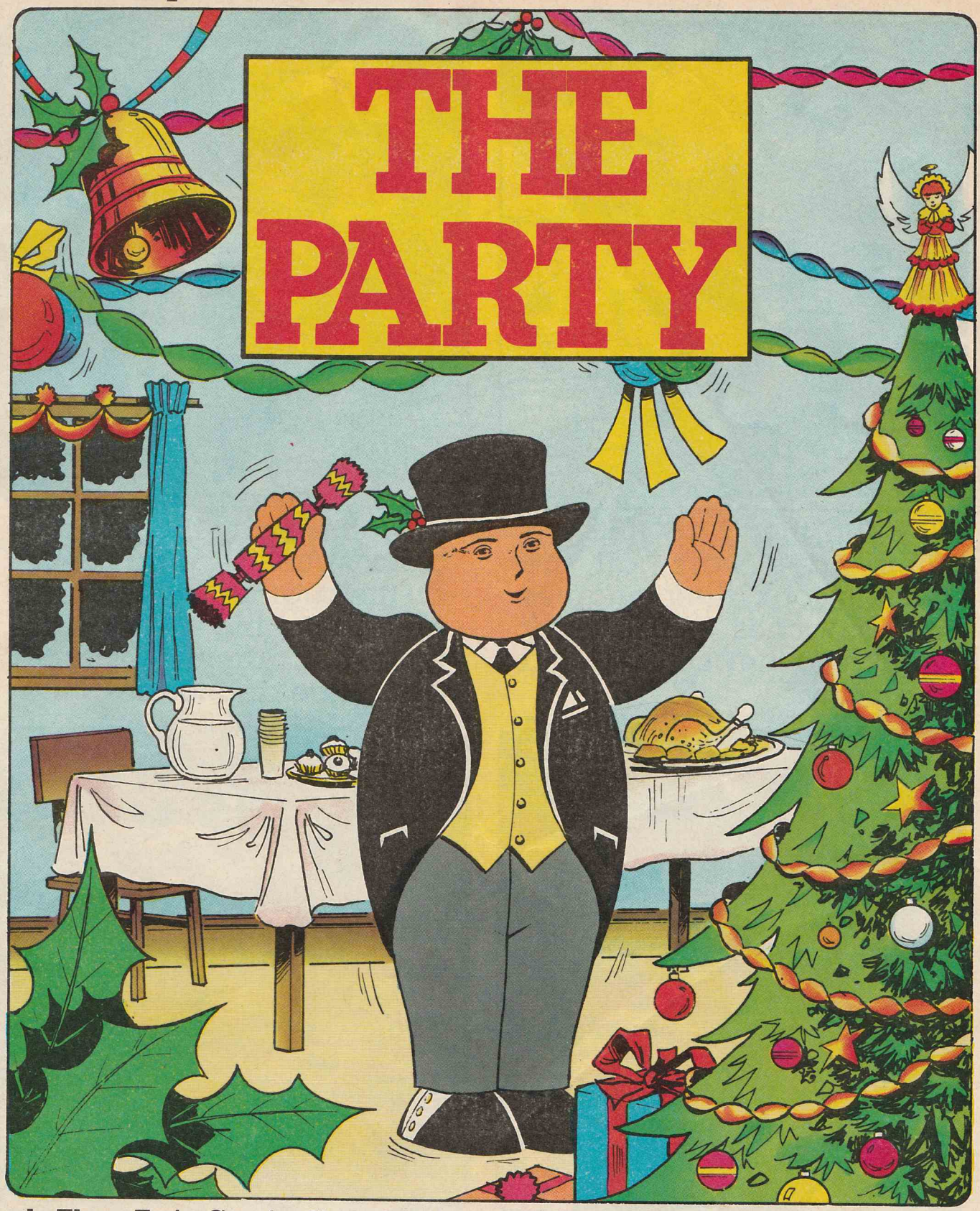
How many children are on the swings?
Point to Bertie the bus!
What is the dog doing?
Are there any passengers aboard Bertie?
Point to the level crossing!
How many children can you see?

JOIN THE DOTS!

Two for the price of one!

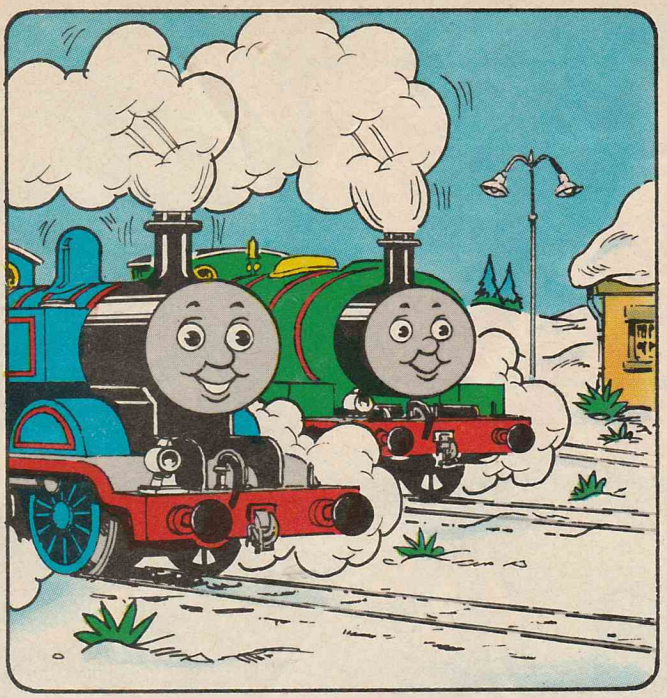


The story continues!

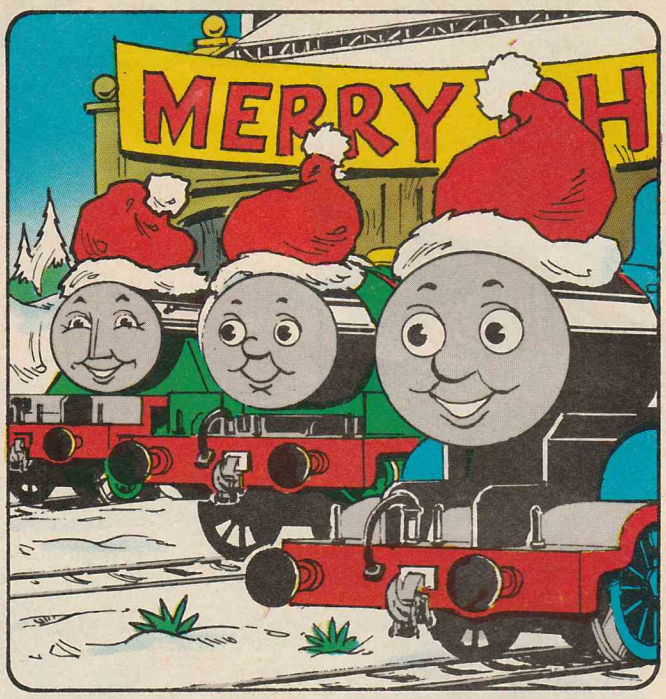


1. The Fat Controller had decided to hold a party on the evening of Christmas Eve for the drivers, firemen and everyone else who worked for him.

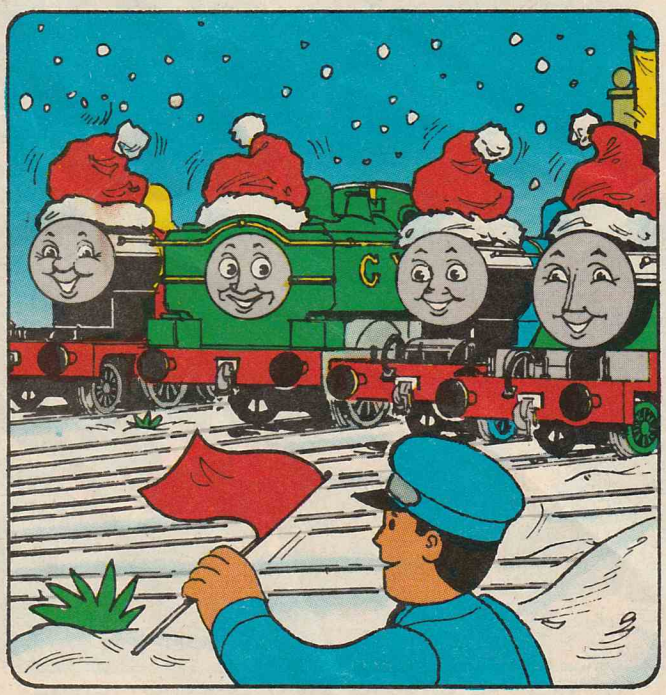
2. He had booked a big room in a hotel by the main station. It had been filled with decorations, presents and lots of lovely food and fizzy drink.



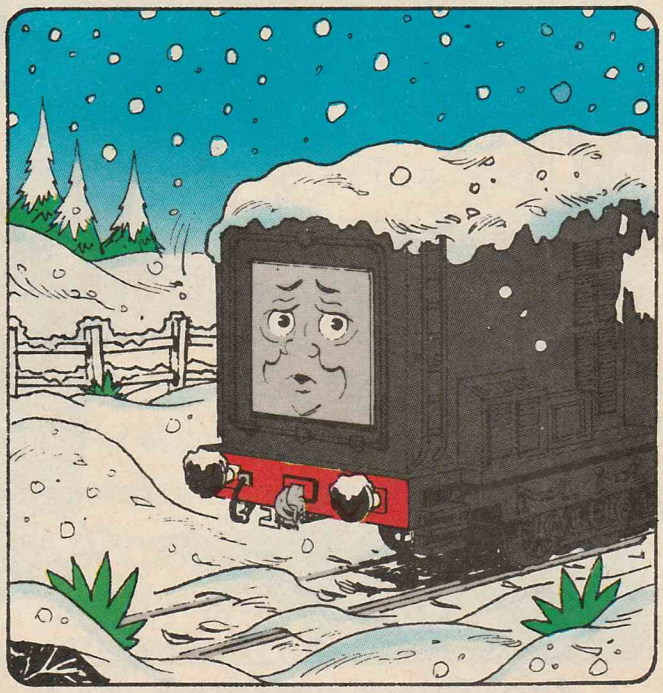
3. When they had finished their day's work, all the drivers took their engines and coaches to the main station so they could get to the party.



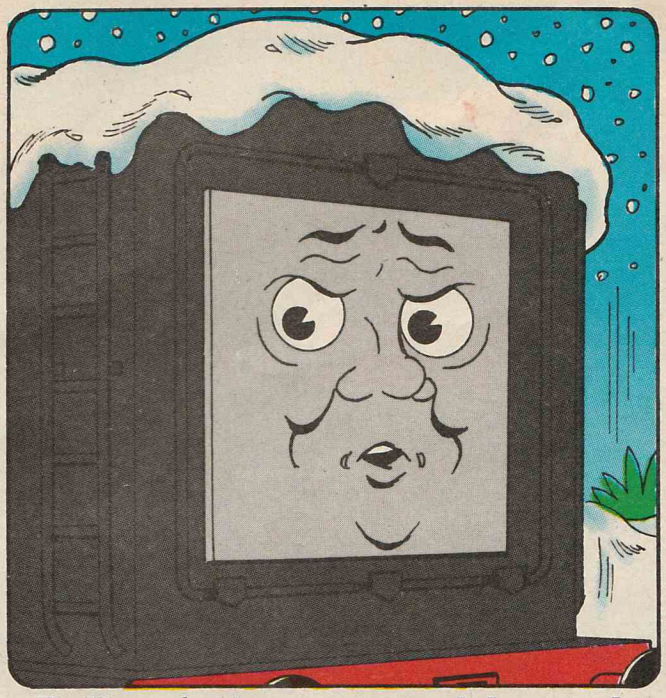
4. By the time the church clock struck seven o'clock, all the engines were in and around the big shed by the turntable. Their fires kept them nice and warm.



5. The engines began telling each other about their adventures in the snow that day. Meanwhile, in a siding far away, Diesel stood cold and alone.

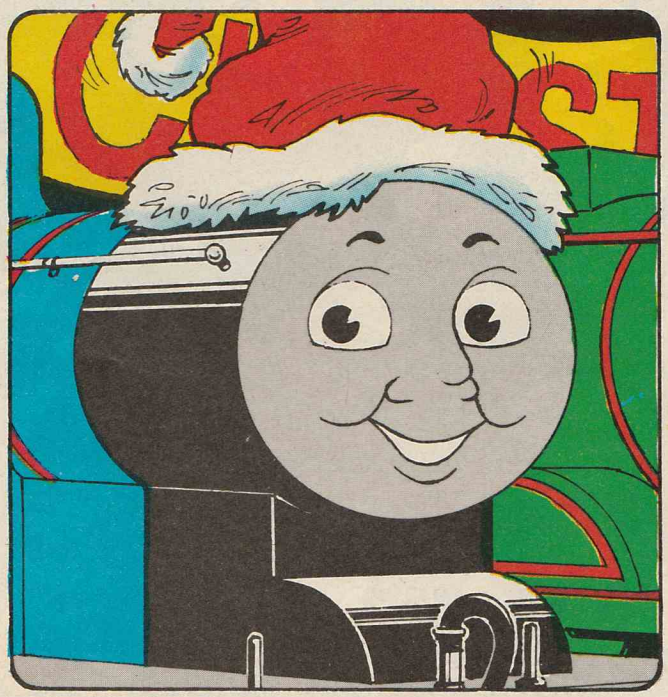


6. A sprinkling of snow had fallen and settled on his top. The lights of the town looked far away and the only sound Diesel heard was the hoot of an owl.

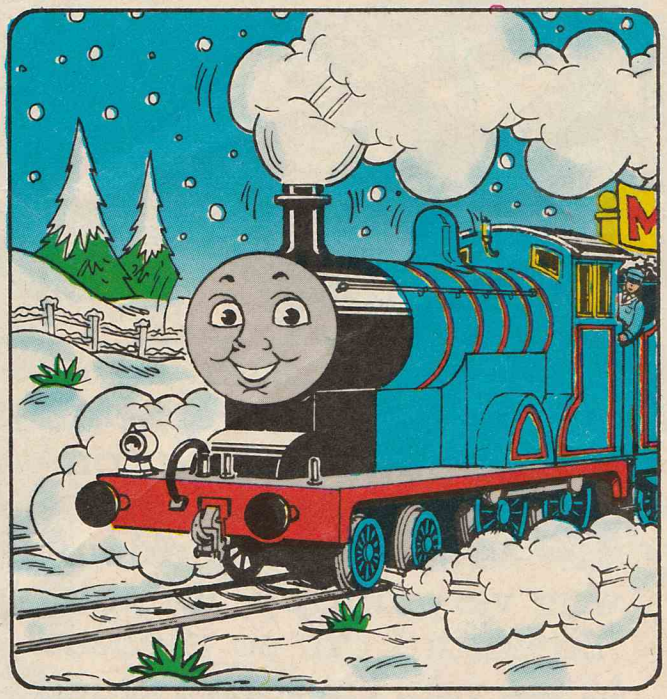


7. He felt very cold and afraid and wished he had not told stories. "I shall be buried under the snow and everyone will forget me," he thought.

8. But the engines had not forgotten him. James said he was glad Diesel was on his own but Edward said, it is Christmas. We should feel sorry for Diesel."



9. "In fact, I think we should go and get him." The other engines did not agree at first, but Edward persuaded them that they should forgive Diesel.



10. When Edward's driver came out to see if the engines were all right, Edward suggested they go and get Diesel. His driver agreed and they set off.

11. Diesel could not believe it when he heard puffing and clanking coming towards him! Then he saw Edward and suddenly was very happy. He said, "Edward! I am so pleased to see you! I'm sorry I made up stories about James. Please take me back to the main station with you! I promise I shall be good!"

12. So Edward took Diesel back. As it was Christmas, all the engines were nice to him. They all had a pleasant evening and soon were fast asleep. When the Fat Controller heard about Diesel he said, "It just proves that even a naughty engine like Diesel can be good if other engines are good to him."

THE END

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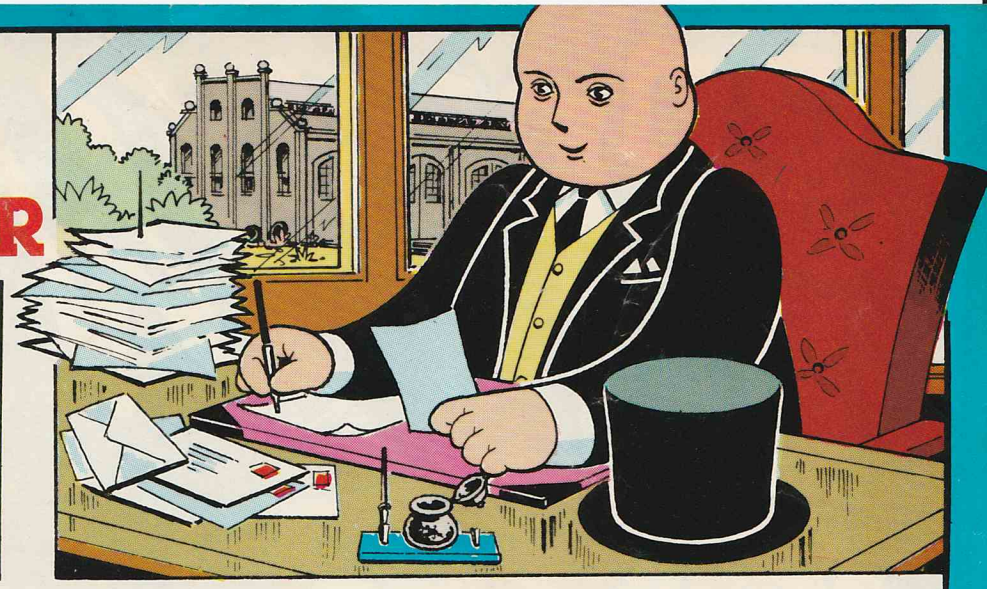
Write to the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas – or any of the other engines? Then why not write to me at the address below? I should be so very pleased to hear from you!

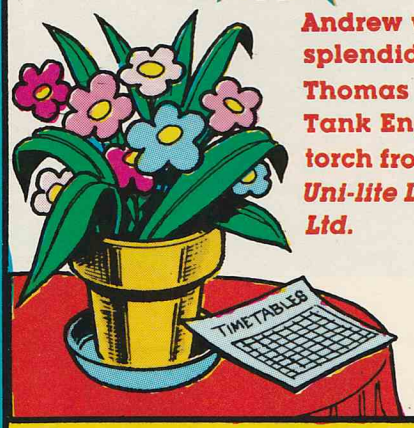
STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,

When I was on my holidays in Wales, I went for a ride on the mountain railway. It was very hard work for the engines. Does Henry ever go up mountains?

Love from **Andrew Davy** (11211).

Indeed he does! In fact one of Henry's most favourite routes is through the mountains on the Island of Sodor. He enjoys speeding downwards even more though!



Andrew wins a splendid Thomas the Tank Engine torch from *Uni-lite Leisure Ltd.*

WHY! WHY! WHY!

Dear Fat Controller,

Why are you bald? I think that you are very cuddly.

Love from **Frances Quinn.**

*That **is** a difficult question, and one I'm afraid that I cannot answer. I must say though, I've been called quite a few things in my time . . . but never cuddly. Thank you very much, Frances!*

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS!

Dear Fat Controller,

For Christmas I have sent a letter to Santa asking for a new bike. Is there anything that you would like for Christmas?

From **David Regent,** aged 6.

Yes, indeed! I would be jolly happy if I received a brand new waistcoat. All my other waistcoats are getting rather old now, you know!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Our very best birthday wishes go out to:

Thomas Wall, Martin Cambell (26860), Christopher Beddore (28785), Allan Whatmough (30627), Dean Edward Ashbury (29220), Robert Goatcher (21313), Ian Chandler, Ian Beeley, Richard James Hitchcock (28706), Paul Collins (8668), Thomas Stephens (20782), Robin Neatherway, Aaron Breslin, Thomas Price, Zoe Russell, Christopher Paul King (23110), Christopher Blacker (4509), Neil James Owen (26619), Dorian Jordan (26273), Terry Gardiner, Stuart Tinker, Andrew & Graham McLeod, Richard Edward Milham (16071), Scott Ferguson (28158), Ashley Adams, Christopher P. Bancroft, Stuart Simpson.

If you'd like a mention, just send details on a postcard please, at least **9 weeks in advance**. We cannot promise to print all the birthdays we receive, but we will try our best!

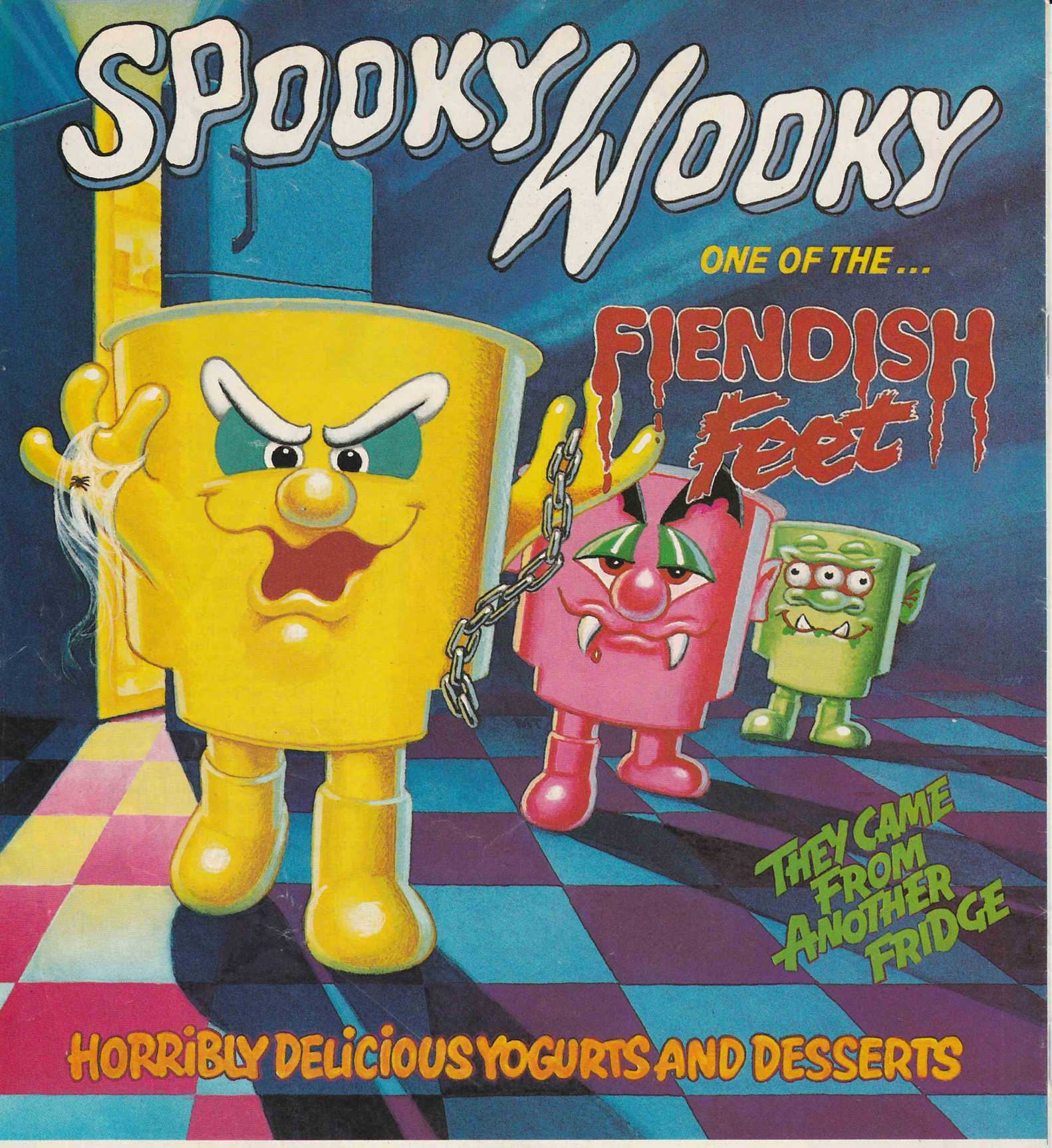
Yours,

Sir Topham Hatt.

the Fat Controller.

Merry Christmas everyone!

Send your letters to: The Island of Sodor, c/o Marvel Comics Ltd, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2.



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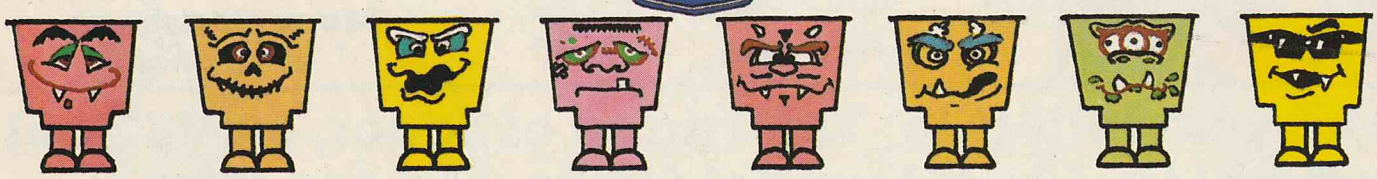

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